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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,964	01/31/2001	Stanley L. Moyer	1300-US	6014

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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/774,964

Applicant(s)

MOYER ET AL.

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Application Number 09/774, 964 was filed on 01/31/2001. Claims 1-16 are subject to examination.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 5, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nuutinen (US 2002/0129236 A1) in view of Moore JR. et al. (hereinafter Moore)(US 2002/0021465 A1)

#### **Referring to claim 1,**

The reference Nuutinen teaches the User Agent Server (UAS) is a server application that contacts the user when a SIP request is received and that returns a response on behalf of the user and the User Agent Client (UAC) is a client application that initiates a SIP request. (page 3, para. [0043] and [0044]). The reference also teaches INVITE: invites user (callee) to a session or a conference. (page 3, [0064]).

The reference fails to teach the UAS processor as being connected to the appliance.

The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG (HNG) and can be replaced to handle SIP (a user agent server (UAS) processor connected to said appliance so as to relay commands to said appliance and receive status information from said appliance; a user agent client (UAC) processor having the capacity to send SIP command messages intended for said appliance to said UAS processor over a communications network and to receive over the communications network status information messages about said appliance from said UAS processor, said UAS processor translating received SIP commands into commands recognized by the appliance and translating information provided by said appliance into SIP status messages for transmission over the communications network to said UAC processor;). The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering" the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]). (and a network appliance system proxy server

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(Proxy) located between the UAC and the UAS for receiving and conveying information between them; and wherein the UAS processor does use address mapping capability for handling at least some of the messages to and from the appliances; and wherein Proxy has address mapping capability to direct said at least some messages through the appropriate UAS processor to the appliance to which they are addressed.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

**Referring to claim 5,**

Keeping in mind the teachings of the reference Nuutinen as stated above, the reference fails to teach the UAS processor as being connected to the appliance. And the Proxy has translation capabilities for the appliances connected by the UAS servers to the Proxy, said translation capabilities acting to assure that a command in the message directed to an appliance is in a form that the appliance can interpret.

The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A

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translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG (HNG) and can be replaced to handle SIP. The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering" the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

**Referring to claims 11 and 12,**

The reference Nuutinen teaches the User Agent Server (UAS) is a server application that contacts the user when a SIP request is received and that returns a response on behalf of the user and the User Agent Client (UAC) is a client application that initiates a SIP request. (page 3, para. [0043] and [0044]). The reference also teaches INVITE: invites user (callee) to a session or a conference. (page 3, [0064]).

The reference fails to teach the UAS processor as being connected to the appliance.

The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG (HNG) and can be replaced to handle SIP. The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering" the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]). (using a user agent client (UAC) processor to send SIP command messages intended for said appliance over a communications network to a Proxy server; receiving the command message in the Proxy server; using address mapping capability in said Proxy server to direct at least some messages to a user agent server (UAS) processor associated with said appliance; receiving a message from said Proxy server at the UAS processor associated with said appliance; and using said UAS processor to translating received SIP commands into commands recognized by the appliance and where in the command is a

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query and further including the steps of: receiving at the UAS processor from the appliance status information; using said UAS processor to translate the status information into SIP protocol; transmitting the UAS status information in SIP protocol to said UAC processor via said Proxy; and displaying the status information at the UAC processor.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

4. Claims 2, 3, 4, 6-10 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nuutinen (US 2002/0129236 A1) in view of Moore JR. et al. (hereinafter Moore)(US 2002/0021465 A1) and further in view of Cuomo et al. (hereinafter Cuomo)(US 2002/0091757 A1).

**Referring to claim 2,**

The reference Nuutinen teaches the User Agent Server (UAS) is a server application that contacts the user when a SIP request is received and that returns a response on behalf of the user and the User Agent Client (UAC) is a client application that initiates a SIP request. (page 3, para. [0043] and [0044]). The reference also teaches INVITE: invites user (callee) to a session or a conference. (page 3, [0064]).



The reference fails to teach the UAS processor as being connected to the appliance.

The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG (HNG) and can be replaced to handle SIP (a user agent server (UAS) processor connected to said appliance so as to relay commands to said appliance and receive status information from said appliance; a user agent client (UAC) processor having the capacity to send SIP command messages intended for said appliance to said UAS processor over a communications network and to receive status information messages over the communications network about said appliance from said UAS processor, said UAS processor translating received SIP commands into commands recognized by the appliance and translating information provided by said appliance into SIP status messages for transmission over the communications network to said UAC processor;). The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering"

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the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]). (a network appliance system proxy server (Proxy) located between the UAC and the UAS for receiving and conveying information between them;)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

Both of these references fail to teach wherein the Proxy has authentication capabilities and said authentication capabilities acting to assure that the message is from an authorized client.

The reference Cuomo teaches at page 1, para.[0009], "A first server is present in which the first server receives a request from a client to access a resource, performs an authentication process with the client, adds and/or modifies information in the request in which the information indicates that the request is from a trusted source to form a modified request, and sends the modified request for processing. This modified request is received by a second server. This second server determines whether the first server is a trusted server based on the information, and provides access to the resource in response to a determination that the first server is a trusted server, the trusted server has

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already authenticated the end user who made this request and the end user is authorized to the requested resource."

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility and Cuomo's first server's authentication and thereby providing authorization to the requested resource as taught by Cuomo, such that it is assured that the access to the in-home networking devices can be authenticated and authorized..

**Referring to claims 3 and 4,**

Keeping in mind the teachings of the references, Nuutinen and Moore, as stated above, both of these references fail to teach the Proxy has authentication capabilities acting to assure that the message directed to an appliance is from an authentic client and proxy server has authorization capabilities acting to assure that a command in the message directed to an appliance is within the client's authority.

The reference Cuomo teaches at page 1, para.[0009], "A first server is present in which the first server receives a request from a client to access a resource, performs an authentication process with the client, adds and/or modifies information in the request in which the information indicates that the request is from a trusted source to form a modified request, and sends the modified request

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for processing. This modified request is received by a second server. This second server determines whether the first server is a trusted server based on the information, and provides access to the resource in response to a determination that the first server is a trusted server, the trusted server has already authenticated the end user who made this request and the end user is authorized to the requested resource."

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility and Cuomo's first server's authentication and thereby providing authorization to the requested resource as taught by Cuomo, such that it is assured that the access to the in-home networking devices can be authenticated and authorized.

**Referring to claims 6 and 7,**

Keeping in mind the teachings of the reference Nuutinen as stated above, the reference fails to teach the Proxy has address mapping capabilities for the appliances connected to the Proxy, said address mapping capabilities acting to assure that a message is directed to the appropriate appliance, and the Proxy has translation capabilities for the appliances connected to the Proxy, said translation capabilities acting to assure that a command in the message directed to an appliance is in a form that the appliance can interpret.

The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG (HNG) and can be replaced to handle SIP . The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering" the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator and a mapping functions providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

**Referring to claims 8, 9 and 10,**

Keeping in mind the teaching of the reference Nuutinen as stated above, the reference fails to teach the UAS processor as being connected to the appliance.

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The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG (HNG) and can be replaced to handle SIP. The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering" the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]). The reference also teaches the home network (Fig.3, element 15) containing "Dongle" (Fig.3, element 58) (appliance controller), which is located between HNG (UAS processor) and the appliance, which converts digital signals to analog signals to the device.(appliance) (page 2,[0028]). The reference also teaches the plurality of appliances in one geographic location that are networked to a single HNG (UAS processor).(Fig. 3, elements 15 and 58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking

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protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

**Referring to claim 13,**

Claim 13 is a claim to a method that is carried out by the system of claims 2 and 3. Therefore claim 13 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claims 2, 3 and 4.

**Referring to claim 14,**

The reference Nuutinen teaches the User Agent Server (UAS) is a server application that contacts the user when a SIP request is received and that returns a response on behalf of the user and the User Agent Client (UAC) is a client application that initiates a SIP request. (page 3, para. [0043] and [0044]). The reference also teaches INVITE: invites user (callee) to a session or a conference. (page 3, [0064]).

The reference fails to teach the UAS processor as being connected to the appliance.

The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG

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(HNG) and can be replaced to handle. The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering" the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]). (using a user agent client (UAC) processor to send SIP command messages intended for said appliance over a communications network to a Proxy server; receiving the command message in the Proxy server; and using said UAS processor to translating received SIP commands into commands recognized by the appliance.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

Both of these references fails to teach using authorization capability in said Proxy server to assure that the message directed to an appliance is contains commands authorized for the client; receiving only authorized messages from said Proxy server at the UAS processor associated with said appliance.

The reference Cuomo teaches at page 1, para.[0009],"A first server is present in which the first server receives a request from a client to access a resource, performs an authentication process with the client, adds and/or modifies information in the request in which the information indicates that the



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request is from a trusted source to form a modified request, and sends the modified request for processing. This modified request is received by a second server. This second server determines whether the first server is a trusted server based on the information, and provides access to the resource in response to a determination that the first server is a trusted server, the trusted server has already authenticated the end user who made this request and the end user is authorized to the requested resource."

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility and Cuomo's first server's authentication and thereby providing authorization to the requested resource as taught by Cuomo, such that it is assured that the access to the in-home networking devices can be authenticated and authorized..

**Referring to claims 15 and 16,**

The reference Nuutinen teaches the User Agent Server (UAS) is a server application that contacts the user when a SIP request is received and that returns a response on behalf of the user and the User Agent Client (UAC) is a client application that initiates a SIP request. (page 3, para. [0043] and [0044]). The reference also teaches INVITE: invites user (callee) to a session or a conference. (page 3, [0064]).

The reference fails to teach the UAS processor as being connected to the appliance.

The reference Moore teaches the home networking gateway (HNG or CG of Fig.1, element 10) providing an interface between an HFC network and an in-home network. Full voice and data connection between the HFC network and each device in the in-home network is provided through the interface. A translator included in the home networking gateway is utilized to provide a mapping between the communication protocols used in the in-home network and the protocols used in the HFC network, eliminating the need for the in-home network to be dependent upon the HFC-specific protocols. (Abstract). Thereby, the reference teaches that the HFC-specific protocols are immaterial to CG (HNG) and can be replaced to handle SIP. The reference also teaches a home networking gateway (HNG) is used as an interface between an HFC network and the home devices and includes the capability of "discovering" the various devices attached to the in-home network. (appliance status information).(page 1, para.[0010]). (using a user agent client (UAC) processor to send SIP command messages intended for said appliance over a communications network to a Proxy server; receiving the command message in the Proxy server; using translation capability in said Proxy server to assure that a command in the message directed to an appliance is in a form that the appliance can interpret; receiving a message from said Proxy server at the UAS processor associated with said appliance; and using said UAS processor to translating received SIP commands into commands recognized by the appliance.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility as taught by Moore.

Both of these references fail to teach the Proxy wherein said Proxy server is at least a first and second Proxy server connected in series and a portion of any one of address mapping, authentication, authorization and translation functions are out-sourced from the UAS processors to at least in part to at least one of the first and second Proxy servers.

The reference Cuomo teaches at page 1, para.[0009], "A first server is present in which the first server receives a request from a client to access a resource, performs an authentication process with the client, adds and/or modifies information in the request in which the information indicates that the request is from a trusted source to form a modified request, and sends the modified request for processing. This modified request is received by a second server. This second server determines whether the first server is a trusted server based on the information, and provides access to the resource in response to a determination that the first server is a trusted server, the trusted server has already authenticated the end user who made this request and the end user is authorized to the requested resource."

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify and enhance Nuutinen's UAS by including the functionality of Moore's CG (HNG) such that the UAS with combined functionality will provide compatibility between the SIP and a variety of in-home networking protocols since the CG (HNG) has a translator function providing compatibility and Cuomo's first server's authentication and thereby providing authorization to the requested resource as an integral part of Moore's CG (HNG) or a separate server as taught by Cuomo, such that It is assured that the access to the in-home networking devices can be authenticated and authorized..

### ***Conclusion***

**Examiner's note:** Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abp

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 JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100